Rising teen music star JoJo Siwa surprises students at a Millard elementary school. *Midlands*

Headlined by rapper and pop singer Lizzo, this year's Maha Festival will be dominated by women. *Living*

Omaha World-Herald

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Mueller outlines president's attempts to thwart Russia probe

Republicans and Democrats differ over whether the special counsel's report vindicates or implicates Trump

WASHINGTON (AP) — Public at last, special counsel Robert Mueller's report revealed Thursday that President Donald Trump tried to seize control of the Russia probe and force Mueller's removal to stop him from investigating potential obstruction of justice by the president. Trump was largely thwarted by those around him.

Mueller laid out multiple episodes in which Trump directed others to influence or curtail the Russia investigation after the special counsel's appointment in May 2017. Those efforts "were mostly unsuccessful, but that is largely because the persons who surrounded the President declined to carry out orders or accede to his requests," Mueller wrote.

The report's bottom line largely tracked the findings revealed in Attorney General William Barr's four-page summary released a month ago: The Trump campaign did not collude with Russia to interfere in the 2016 presidential campaign, and Mueller's team did not make a "traditional prosecutorial judgment" about whether Trump obstructed justice.

But the report contained a

See Trump: Page 2

MORE ON THE REPORT

Ten instances of possible obstruction examined by Mueller, and Midlands lawmakers' reaction to the report. **Page 2A**

Special counsel Robert Mueller's report includes the president's written responses to queries from Mueller's team.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHRIS MACHIAN/THE WORLD-HERALD

LAGOON LOST AS SEA OF CHANGES UNDERWAY

A worker places a hose to pump remaining water out of the Gene Leahy Mall lagoon. When the lagoon is dry, demolition and grading will begin in earnest for the $290 million mall and riverfront project.

By Aaron Sanderford
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Downtown Omaha's signature water feature is nearly dry, a key step toward the city's donor-driven $290 million riverfront makeover.

Construction workers plan to pump the last water out of the Gene Leahy Mall lagoon next week, steering it into nearby storm sewers.

The city let gravity drain much of the lagoon's water this month. Private crews are removing the rest with up to six pumps, at a cost of more than $15,000, Metropolitan Entertainment and Convention Authority officials said.

The pumping has revealed a trove of treasures lost, including children's toys, a traffic cone, trash and at least two marooned bicycles.

The new view is a change for those used to trees and dark water,

See Leahy: Page 4

Membership in U.S. churches has plummeted in past 20 years

NEW YORK (AP) — The percentage of U.S. adults who belong to a church or other religious institution has plunged by 20 percentage points over the past two decades, hitting a low of 50% last year, according to a new Gallup poll.

Among major demographic groups, the biggest drops were recorded among Democrats and Hispanics.

Gallup said church membership was 70% in 1999. Since then, the figure has fallen steadily, while the percentage of U.S. adults with no religious affiliation has jumped from 8% to 19%.

Among Americans identifying with a particular religion, there was a sharp drop in membership in a specific church among Catholics — dropping from 76% to 63% over the past two decades as the church was buffeted by clergy sexual abuse scandals. Church membership among Protestants dropped

See Church: Page 5

College hoops in court

Creighton and other schools await more fallout from the bribery case ahead of the start of another trial. **Sports**

Weather

High: 67 **Low:** 43
Mostly sunny **Details:** 4A

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1 killed, 1 injured during work on future Costco chicken plant

By Kevin Cole
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

One man was killed and another was critically injured Thursday at the Costco chicken plant that is under construction in Fremont.

Two workers fell 40 feet from a lift basket they were working in, Fremont police said. A 56-year-old man died and his 26-year-old co-worker was injured, police said.

Fremont fire and rescue personnel were called to the site at 1000 E. Cloverly Road at 9:37 a.m., Fire Capt. Jamie Meyer said.

Crews had to make a "high-angle rescue" of one of the workers, Meyer said.

"The patient was trapped on the frame of a bin inside the facility," he said.

See Costco: Page 4

MAN DIES IN WORK ACCIDENT

Tractor rolls forward, crushing the worker. **Midlands, Page 2B**